(c) whether it is proposed to enforce stringent labeling norms for garment manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government has decided to remove only (i) Cotton and Woolen Textiles and (ii) Raw Cotton either ginned or un-ginned and Cotton Seeds from the ambit of Essential Commodities Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

New handloom policy

888. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that government have decided to announce new handloom policy to ameliorate the sufferings of the weaving community;

(b) if so, whether it will be announced during the ensuing Winter Session of the Parliament; and

(c) what are main features of the new handloom policy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) National Textile Policy was announced in the year 2000. The handloom sector also forms a part of the National Textile Policy 2000. The details of the National Handloom Policy incorporated in the National Textile Policy 2000 are as under:—

The handloom sector is known for its heritage and the tradition of excellent craftsmanship. It provides livelihood to millions of weavers and craftsperson. The industry has not only survived but also grown over the decades due to its inherent strength like flexibility of production in small quantities, openness to innovation, low level of capital investment and immense possibility of designing fabrics. Government will continue to accord priority to this sector. Steps would be taken to promote and develop its exclusiveness for the global market. Measure will include the following:—

- Training modules will be developed for weavers engaged in the production of low value added items, who may not be able to survive the competition consequent on globalization, with the objective of upgrading their skills to enable them to find alternate employment in the textile or other allied sector;

- Comprehensive welfare measures will continue to be implemented in close cooperation with the State Governments, for better working environment and the social security of the weavers;
- Effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages will be provided;
- The implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 will be reviewed keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers;
- Weavers Service Centres will be revamped in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID;
- As merchandising and marketing will be central to the success of the handloom sector, the present package of schemes for production of value added fabrics will be streamlined; innovative market-oriented schemes will be introduced; and joint ventures encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

Jute Technology Mission

889. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a Jute Technology Mission with an investment of Rs. 350 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to give importance to diversification of jute for producing other products?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, there is a proposal to set up a Jute Technology Mission with an investment of Rs. 355 crores. However, this is yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.

(c) Yes Sir.